

## Miscellaneous.

**THE IRON TRADE.**—It appears that at Glasgow the Scotch iron-masters met lately and agreed to correspond with the Welsh iron-masters about a reduction in the make; and we observe that (in consequence we presume of this correspondence) at a meeting of the iron-masters of South Wales, held on Tuesday week, the following decision was come to unanimously:—"That a general reduction of the make of iron, although in itself desirable, does not appear to this meeting, under existing circumstances, to be capable of being carried out by arrangement at the present time." So much the worse for the trade itself. A local impulse on the contrary will, in the meantime, be given to the South Wales manufacture by the Russian contract for 140,000 tons of rail for the Moscow and Warsaw railway.—The Blair Iron Works were, on Wednesday week, exposed to public sale in the Glasgow Exchange Sale-rooms, and bought by Messrs. Baird, of Gartsherrie Iron Works, at the reduced upset price of 33,000*l*. They also take the stock of the ironstone, calcined, at 9*s*. per ton for 60,000 tons, besides about 2*s*. 6*d*. of royalty.—A valuable iron mine, it is said, has recently been discovered in a field in the New-road, Brixham. The ore was found very near the surface, and a shaft has been sunk which has yielded abundance of mineral. The field was not long since offered for sale, but no purchaser could be found. Some houses were about to be built on it.—An increase of duties on imported iron and steel has been decreed by the Spanish Government, which gives as its reason, the great importance to which the Spanish iron trade has reached, and the propriety of protecting it.—Mr. T. Kendrick, iron-founder, of Edgbaston, has patented some improvements in the manufacture of wrought-iron tubes, which consist in enamelling and glazing the interior surfaces of wrought-iron tubes. For this purpose the patentee employs two compositions—one to form the body, and the other the glazed surface. The body glaze is composed of 100 lbs. of calcined flints, reduced to a fine powder; 75 lbs. borax, also in powder. The surface glaze is composed of 100 lbs. Cornish stone, 117 lbs. borax, 35 lbs. soda ash, 35 lbs. saltpetre, 35 lbs. sifted slack-lime, 13 lbs. white sand, and 50 lbs. white glass in powder. The patentee observes that the surfaces of cast-iron tubes have heretofore been enamelled and glazed, and that, therefore, he claims the enamelling and glazing, in the manner described, the interior surfaces of wrought-iron tubes only.

**ACTION FOR WORK AND LABOUR.**—At Derby, on the 12th inst. a case was tried before Chief Justice Jervis and a jury, in which the plaintiff, Mr. Colquhoun, a gasfitter, sought payment of a balance due on 1,100*l*. per contract, with defendant, Mr. Silvester, the engineer, for fitting up gas-works, pipes, and burners, at the Derby County Lunatic Asylum, at Mickleover, besides payment also for extra work. A sum of 800*l*. had been paid to account. The claim was resisted on the ground that the apparatus would not make gas, and that the defendant had been obliged to make great alterations in the flues and other parts to render it serviceable. Plaintiff attributed the failure of his apparatus to the want of a proper draught for the flues, occasioned by defendant insisting on having one large central shaft to carry off all the smoke from the building, instead of having a separate and independent chimney for the flues of the gas-making apparatus. The items of extra work were also disputed. The jury found a verdict for plaintiff—damages 281*l*.

**"TAKE CARE OF YOUR CEILINGS."**—Warnings given in THE BUILDER often seem prophecies: we draw attention to the dangerous way in which buildings are being erected one day, and within a week two or three fatal accidents attest the necessity for the remark. We point out that the ceilings of houses should occasionally be looked to, and forthwith one decends with a great crash and destroys everything beneath. This happened last week at the Foreign Office, in Downing-street: fortunately no person was in the room at the time.

**ROUGH PLATE GLASS.—IMPORTANT DECISION.**—In the Court of Eschequer, on the 13th ult. a case was decided in regard to the patent of Mr. Hartley, of Sunderland, which appears to settle the question of originality of invention in favour of Mr. Hartley, although the sole secret appears to have consisted in ladling rough glass directly on to a hot table near the melting pot, in place of carrying it as usual out of the refining pot to a cold table at some distance from the furnace. One firm it appears expended 25,000*l*. in the vain endeavour to use the ladle and to draw the table close to the rough melting pot! The most important discoveries are often so simple that every one afterwards is only astonished how they could be so long in being made. The consequence of this simple invention or discovery is, that rough plate glass, not transparent, but perfectly well adapted for extensive use in railway stations, in horticulture, and in workshops and otherwise, can now be made in minutes instead of hours or days, and in patterns stamped by the table, which becomes so hot as to be capable of keeping the glass molten till stamped, and till one ladleful is added to another and perfectly united with it in imperceptible junction or welding, so that plates of any size of glass can now be made at comparatively small cost. The defendant in the case under notice is Mr. Hadland, of the Eccleston Glass Works in Lancashire, who seems to have been experimenting, as did many others, in search of cheap processes at the time when the duty was taken off glass, and who contrived to do so, and at length, after employing a nephew of Mr. Hartley in his works, succeeded in making and selling an article identical with that of Mr. Hartley's patent, but only after the date of that patent. He claimed the use of the ladle, however, previous to the date of the patent; but a verdict was given in favour of the plaintiff, after a long trial reported in the *Sunderland Herald*.

**THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE PICTURE.**—A trial took place at the Manchester County Court on Wednesday week, when Mr. Agnew, of Manchester, print publisher, sued Mr. Joseph Simpson, a member of the League, for the price of a ten guinea proof of the picture of the "Meeting of the Council of the League," painted by Mr. Herbert, R.A. It transpired that Mr. Agnew paid Mr. Herbert 1,000*l*. for the picture, and Mr. S. Bellew 1,000 guineas for engraving it. There were various grounds of defence, but the main were, that Mr. Agnew had inserted the heads of three gentlemen, not one of them being members of the council; and next, that the print was a very mediocre one; these two acts conjointly forming a breach of contract on the part of Mr. Agnew. Dr. Massie's head (one of the three), it was rather contradictorily said, had been designedly thrown into the background from ill feeling on the part of Mr. Herbert, who is a Roman Catholic, while the chaplain to the League is a staunch Protestant. The engraver proved that the artist had refused to touch up the plate as usual, on pretence of a vow requiring dispensation from his spiritual adviser. Mr. Herbert explained that he had resolved to have nothing to do with Mr. Agnew again, and therefore could not conscientiously correct the plates. As to Dr. Massie, his head interfered with the balance or beauty of the composition, and required to be thrown into shade. The judge, Mr. R. Brandt, gave judgment for the plaintiff, conceiving that the introduction of the three heads complained of was not a vitiating circumstance: they were in the habit of attending the meetings of the council, though not of it, and therefore their presence did not detract from the accuracy of a picture which purported to be one of a meeting of the council.

**VENTILATION OF HOUSE OF COMMONS.**—In reply to a question put by Lord Grosvenor, Lord John Manners assured the House the other night that every facility will be given to the carrying out of the changes pointed out as desirable. Mr. Gurney, his lordship added, had been appointed to report on the matter. Dr. Reid's report is now in the hands of the members. He names 2,800*l*. as the probable additional cost of the works to be yet done. We may have something to say about it.

**ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.**—Efforts are being made by the local authorities of Aberdeenshire to have the telegraph extended to Aberdeen. At before noted, it has already reached the Tay, where we suppose a short submarine section will be requisite to cross the frith or estuary.—The *Rotterdam Courant* announces that an English engineer is in Holland for the establishment of a telegraph between Harwich and Helvoetsloot.—The receipts of the submarine telegraph between France and England, according to *Herapath*, were, for the first month of its working, 398*l*.; for the second month, 517*l*.; and for the third month, 519*l*.; the annual expenses being estimated not to exceed 2,000*l*. Some surprising experiments are reported to have been made on this line by Mr. Reid, of University-street, London, telegraph-engineer. He is said to have not only proved, in the presence of various public men, on the 1st and 2nd inst. the possibility of efficiently working a line of 68 miles circuit, such as this, with a battery 4 inches long by 1½ inch deep, and weighing in all 1 lb. 5 oz. instead of 64 lbs. which the 36-inch-long battery in use weighs, but that messages can be quite intelligibly conducted by means of a battery, consisting merely of a single piece of zinc, and a single piece of silver, stuck into the clerk's mouth, with the two wires attached to the poles of this primitive battery! We seem to be on the eve of another grand revolution in telegraphic science. Not even the nervous powers of animal life can boast of a more spiritual independence of gross matter than this.

**GENERAL DRAINAGE OF LONDON AND ITS ENVIRONS.**—From a paragraph in your paper it would appear "the present Commissioners of Sewers will not appoint a new engineer" or inspector of works as proposed by so honourable a commissioner on the 11th ultimo. That such an omission will be of long duration cannot be supposed, and without doubting the just intentions of the commissioners, it is to be hoped that when an appointment is made, the selection will be from those who have supplied the most useful suggestions on "forming the general plan for the drainage of London." Those only who have gone below the surface, and dipped deeply into the great question of sewage, are capable of appreciating the great devotion and labour required to originate a plan capable of meeting the requirements in a question of such vast complicity as the general drainage of the metropolis; and those only, I presume, may consider themselves as entitled to some consideration from the commissioners.—ONE WHO HAS SCHEMED.

**WORKING-MEN'S APPRECIATION OF LECTURES AT THE GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM.**—A spontaneous record of thanks was presented at the conclusion of the course of lectures, on Monday evening last, at the Museum of Geology, Jermyn-street, signed by nearly 200 of the audience, whose signatures were obtained in some of the factories and workshops in which they are employed (had it been permitted to take the signatures in the lecture room every one would have readily added his name).

**WIDE ESTIMATING.**—Pray insert the following tenders delivered for erecting four houses at Harrow-on-the-Hill, under Messrs. Habershon:—

Hey	£6,459
Howard	6,398
Lawrence	6,100
Winland and Holland	6,000
Smith and Appleford	5,185
Piper	4,876
Locke and Nesham	4,845
Chapman	4,545

**TENDERS FOR SEWERAGE.**—I cannot resist the temptation to give you a list of the tenders for sewerage, &c. sent to the commissioners of Malvern, Worcestershire.

Walford and Hayes	£9,351 16 2½
Joseph Wood	4,800 0 0
Thomas Darke	4,491 10 0
Mears, J. and C. Rigby	3,700 0 0
J. H. Taanton	3,150 0 0
Richard Jones	2,551 0 0
Edward Smith	2,500 0 0

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